Air Pollution in Metropolitan Cities

7660. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to tackle on a war-footing the air pollution which is turning the capital virtually into a gas chamber;

(b) whether the level of emission of toxic gases such as carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide and various oxides of nitrogen has steeply shot up; and

(c) if so, what adequate measures are being taken by Government to control air pollution in all the metropolitan cities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Government has constituted a High-Powered Committee to prepare a comprehensive action plan for environment and pollution control in Delhi.

(b) Ambient air quality data of Delhi indicates that levels of carbon monoxide and oxides of nitrogen are beyond the prescribed limits in some traffic intersections/locations in Delhi with a high traffic density. Levels of Sulphur Dioxide are within prescribed limits.

(c) The measures being taken up by the Government to control air pollution in the metropolitan cities include the following:

(i) Standards for ambient air qulaity have been notified.

(ii) A network of ambeint air quality stations have been set up.

(iii) Emission norms for both petrol and diesel driven vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and these are under implementation from 1990. The various State Transport Directorates have been advised to enforce these standards.

(iv) The lead content in petrol has been brought down to a national average of 0.18 gramme per litre. It is proposed to reduce them further.

(v) Public awareness campaigns have been launched on various measures to prevent and control pollution from vehicles.

(vi) More stringent norms for vehicular emissions have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules in September 1993 which would come into effect from 1996.

(vii) Automobile manufacturers have been asked to develop and improve their technology to meet the more stringent standards for emission from vehicles.

(viii) City planners are advised to incorporate in their plans the long term requirements of city transportation.

Steps taken to prevent pollution of drinking water

7661. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation about the pollution of drinking water due to the seepage of salt water from the prawn farms in Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu State;

(b) whether it is a fact that more and more prawn farms are coming up in the coastal belt of Thanjavur district;

(c) whether it is also a fact that more and more paddy fields are being converted into prawn farms in this area; and

(d) what steps have been taken to prevent pollution of drinking water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir. The Government have not received any such representation. However, there is likelihood of seepage of salt water from the prawn farms over a